

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 5-10 as follows. A detailed listing of all original and amended claims is provided below in compliance with revised 37 CFR 1.121.

1. (amended) A fuel cell, comprising:

cell assemblies each having a plurality of unit cells, each of said plurality of units cells ~~has each having a~~ membrane electrode assembly including ~~of an~~ anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, interposed between said anode and said cathode, said cell assemblies having reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and connected in series with each other across said unit cells for one of supplying and/or circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said cell assemblies;

a fuel gas outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with fuel gas passages, of said reactant gas passages, for passing a fuel gas therethrough; and

a fuel gas adjusting mechanism connected to said fuel gas outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said fuel gas.

2. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:

an oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with oxygen-containing gas passages, of said reactant gas passages, for passing an oxygen-containing gas therethrough; and

an oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism connected to said oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said oxygen-containing gas.

3. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 2, further comprising:

a coolant outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with said coolant passages, for passing a coolant therethrough; and

a coolant adjusting mechanism connected to said coolant outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said coolant.

4. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:

a coolant outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with said coolant passages, for passing a coolant therethrough; and

a coolant adjusting mechanism connected to said coolant outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said coolant.

5. (amended) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said plurality of unit cells of said cell assemblies are juxtaposed.

6. (amended) A method of controlling a fuel cell including cell assemblies each having a plurality of unit cells, each of said plurality of unit cells has ~~having~~ a membrane electrode assembly including ~~of~~ an anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane; interposed between said anode and said cathode, said cell assemblies having reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and connected in series with each other across said unit cells for one of supplying and ~~or~~ circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said cell assemblies, said method comprising the step of:

controlling a fuel gas flowing through fuel gas passages, of said reactant gas passages, and ~~with a fuel gas adjusting mechanism for thereby adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said cell assemblies~~ with a fuel gas adjusting mechanism.

7. (amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

controlling an oxygen-containing gas flowing through oxygen-containing gas passages, of said reactant gas passages, ~~and further with an oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism for thereby adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said cell assemblies~~ with an oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism.

8. (amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

controlling a coolant that is one of supplied to and/or discharged from a coolant outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with said coolant passages, ~~and further with a coolant adjusting mechanism for thereby adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said cell assemblies~~ with a coolant adjusting mechanism.

9. (amended) A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

controlling a coolant that is one of supplied to and/or discharged from a coolant outlet/inlet passage extending between the unit cells and connecting with said coolant passages, ~~and further with a coolant adjusting mechanism for thereby adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said cell assemblies~~ with a coolant adjusting mechanism.

10. (amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

controlling said reactant gases and said coolant to operate unit cells into which said coolant is initially introduced at ~~the time of a startup~~ time of said cell assemblies.